

CHAPTER 6 - ANNEX A - HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

6.A.1 - PURPOSE -

Establishes and outlines policies of the California Army National Guard Medical Surveillance Program, for the control of noise hazards and prevention of hearing loss.

6.A.2 - OBJECTIVES -

To provide the personnel of the facility with a work environment within acceptable noise limits and minimize hearing loss.

6.A.3 - REFERENCES -

- AR 40-5, Preventive Medicine.
- AR 385-10, Army Safety Program.
- NGR 385-10, Army National Guard Safety Program.
- DA PAM 40-501, Hearing Conservation.
- Title 8, California Administrative Code, (CAC), Article 105, Control of Noise Exposure.

6.A.4 - RESPONSIBILITIES -

6.A.4.1 - FACILITY COMMANDER -

1. Will insure an ample supply of required earplugs and/or ear muffs are on hand for the individuals assigned to the SLI-AASF.
2. Supervise and discipline personnel for noncompliance in the use of hearing protective devices during periods they remain in hazardous noise areas.
3. Ensure that personnel comply with the requirements for audiometer examinations and refer personnel with hearing problems or complaints to their supervisor and assigned safety representative.
4. Record and report permanent noise induced hearing loss as an occupational illness IAW AR 385-40, and NGR 385-10, to the State Safety and Occupational Health Office (SSOHO).
5. Appoint a safety representative.

6.A.4.2 - SLI-AASF SAFETY OFFICER -

Be familiar with CAL ARNG 385-9, Hearing Conservation and to assist the facility commander with enforcement.

6.A.5 - MONITORING AUDIOMETRY -

Technicians and AGR personnel will receive an initial pre-placement (reference) audiogram and a subsequent audiometric test annually. These tests are scheduled through SSOHO and the facility safety officer.

Military (M-Day) personnel will initially be given a reference audiometric test and a subsequent audiometric tests every four (4) years.

6.A.6 - HEARING PROTECTION -

1. All CAL ARNG personnel will be fitted with a set of preformed earplugs and issued a carrying case. Only earplugs approved by the Surgeon General will be used (CAL ARNG 385-9).
2. Earmuffs will be used in combination with earplugs (double protection) when exposed to 108 dB and above.
3. Foam rubber earplugs may be used also.

6.A.7 - EDUCATION, SUPERVISION AND DISCIPLINE -

1. Facility commander and technicians supervisors will ensure personnel performing duties in hazardous noise areas are informed of the harmful effects of noise and instructed to avoid exposure by using hearing protectors.

2. Training will emphasize the proper use and care of hearing protectors. Education materials and assistance can be provided through the SSOHO.
3. Disciplinary actions are IAW CAL ARNG 385-9.